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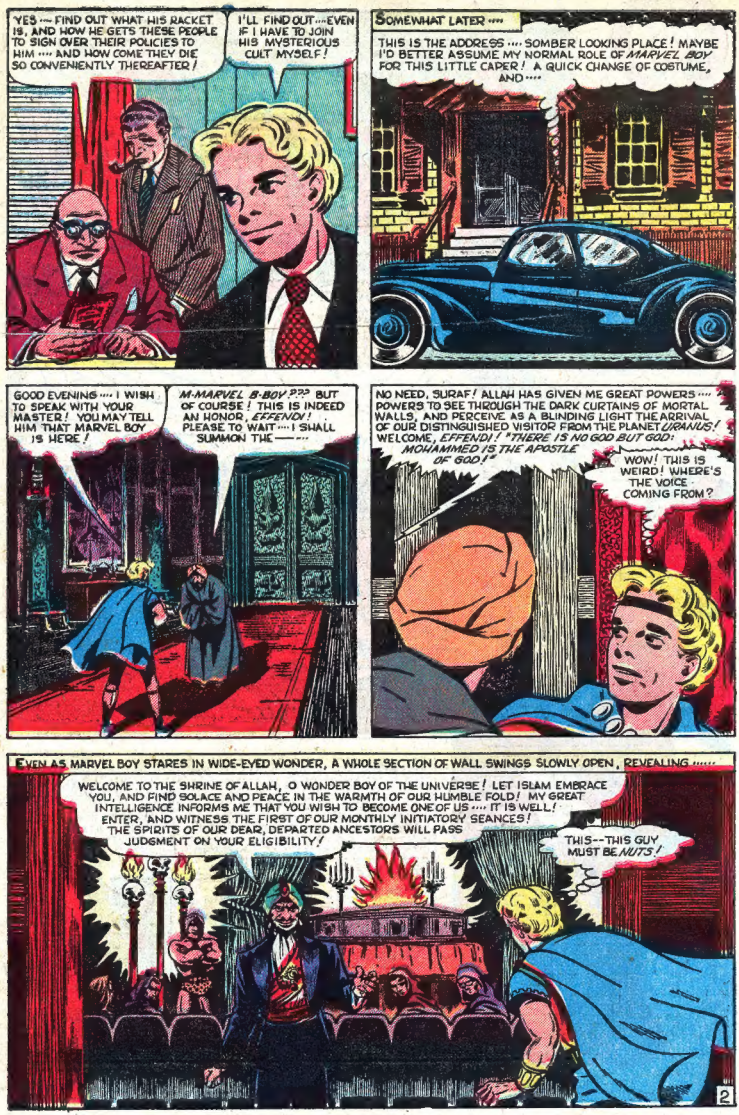
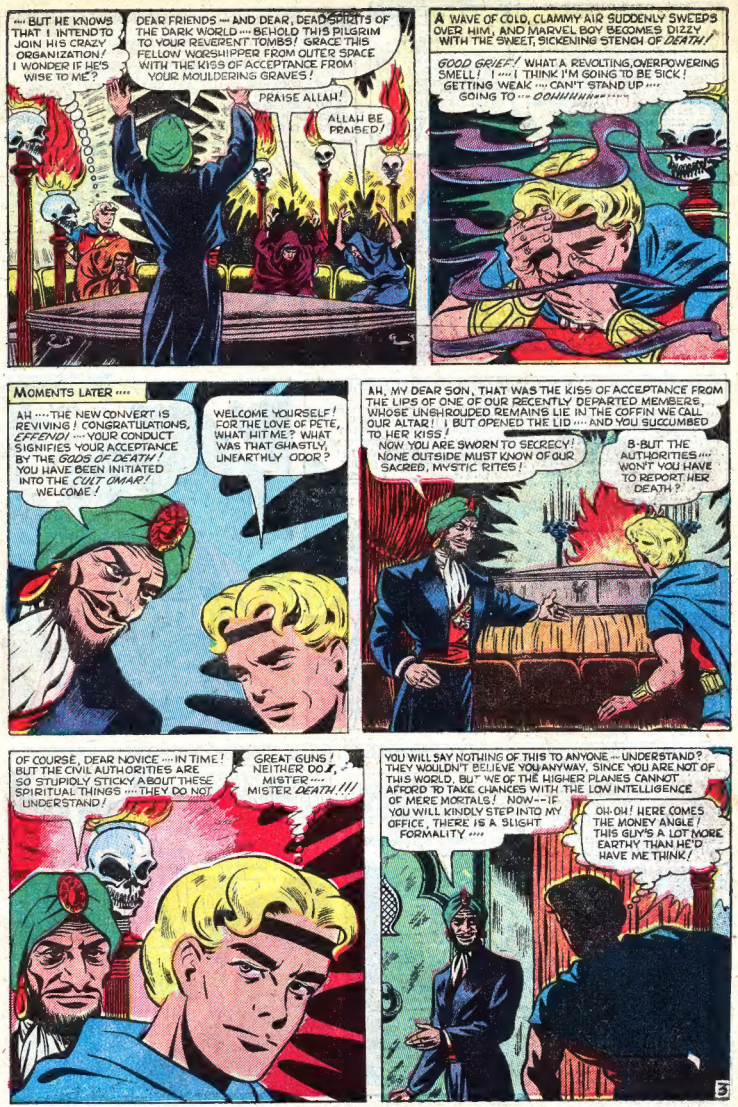
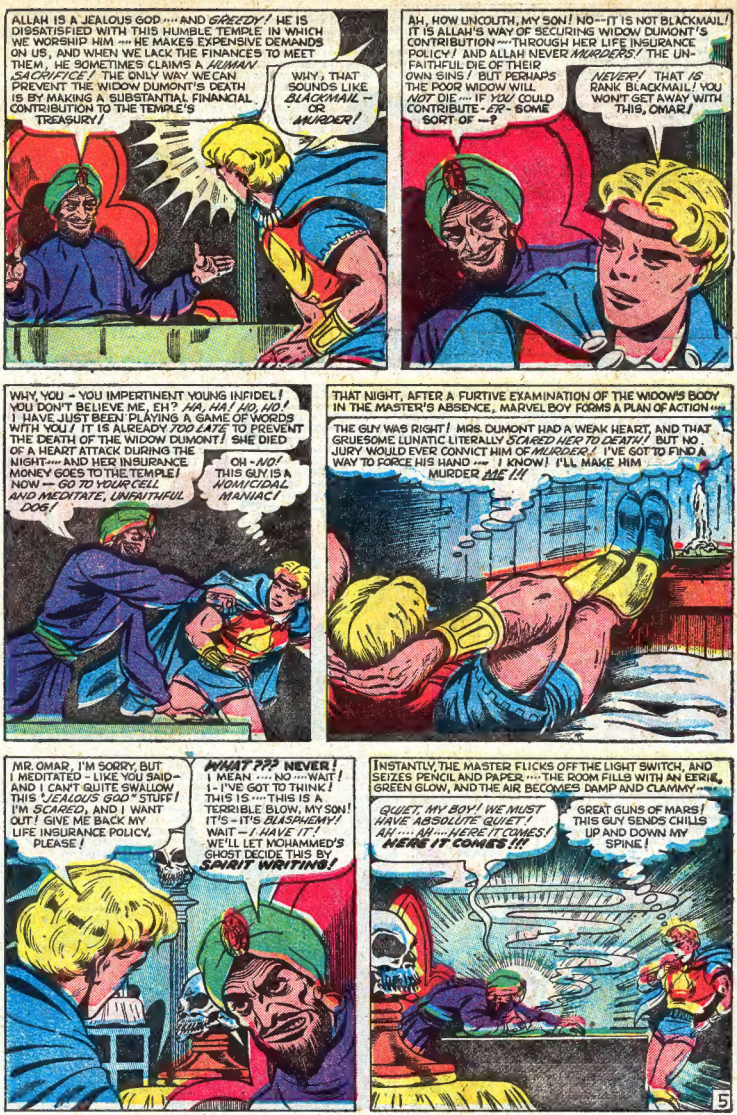
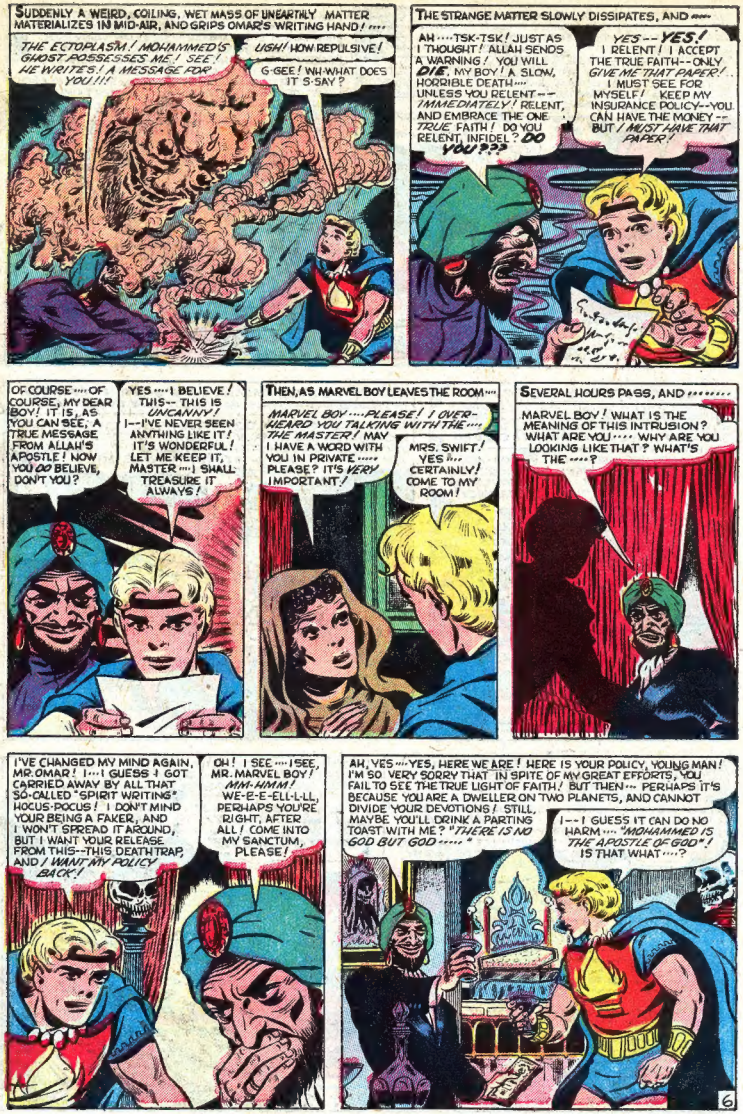
AN ASTONISHING MARVEL BOY TALE
Mister DEATH!
HELP! IT'S THE—THE GHOST OF MARVEL BOY! IT'S AFTER ME! HELP! LET ME OUT OF HERE!!!
MARVEL BOY, KNOWN ON THE PLANET EARTH AS BOB GRAYSON, INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR, IS SUMMONED ONE DAY TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF HIS COMPANY....
COME IN, GRAYSON ... WE'VE A NASTY BIT OF BUSINESS HERE! GOT TO PAY-OFF ON TWO POLICIES.... SAME BENEFICIARY ON EACH! FOREIGNER, NAME OF OMAR KHAYAM RASCH.... RUNS SOME SORT OF SPIRITUALIST CULT.... EVER HEAR OF HIM?
THINK SO, SIR.... PROBABLY A FAKER, PREYING ON THE FORTUNES OF WEALTHY, ELDERLY WIDOWS! WANT ME TO LOOK INTO IT?
1


YES ... FIND OUT WHAT HIS RACKET IS, AND HOW HE GETS THESE PEOPLE TO SIGN OVER THEIR POLICIES TO HIM ... AND HOW COME THEY DIE SO CONVENIENTLY THEREAFTER!
I'LL FIND OUT ... EVEN IF I HAVE TO JOIN HIS MYSTERIOUS CULT MYSELF!
SOMEWHAT LATER ....
THIS IS THE ADDRESS ... SOMBER LOOKING PLACE! MAYBE I'D BETTER ASSUME MY NORMAL ROLE OF MARVEL BOY FOR THIS LITTLE CAPER! A QUICK CHANGE OF COSTUME, AND ....
GOOD EVENING ... I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MASTER! YOU MAY TELL HIM THAT MARVEL BOY IS HERE!
M-MARVEL B-BOY?? BUT OF COURSE! THIS IS INDEED AN HONOR, EFFENDI! PLEASE TO WAIT ... I SHALL SUMMON THE —...
NO NEED, SURAF! ALLAH HAS GIVEN ME GREAT POWERS ... POWERS TO SEE THROUGH THE DARK CURTAINS OF MORTAL WALLS, AND PERCEIVE AS A BLINDING LIGHT THE ARRIVAL OF OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR FROM THE PLANET URANUS! WELCOME, EFFENDI! "THERE IS NO GOD BUT GOD: MOHAMMED IS THE APOSTLE OF GOD!"
WOW! THIS IS WEIRD! WHERE'S THE VOICE COMING FROM?
EVEN AS MARVEL BOY STARES IN WIDE-EYED WONDER, A WHOLE SECTION OF WALL SWINGS SLOWLY OPEN, REVEALING .....
WELCOME TO THE SHRINE OF ALLAH, O WONDER BOY OF THE UNIVERSE! LET ISLAM EMBRACE YOU, AND FIND SOLACE AND PEACE IN THE WARMTH OF OUR HUMBLE FOLD! MY GREAT INTELLIGENCE INFORMS ME THAT YOU WISH TO BECOME ONE OF US ... IT IS WELL! ENTER, AND WITNESS THE FIRST OF OUR MONTHLY INITIATORY SEANCES! THE SPIRITS OF OUR DEAR, DEPARTED ANCESTORS WILL PASS JUDGMENT ON YOUR ELIGIBILITY!
THIS--THIS GUY MUST BE NUTS!
2


... BUT HE KNOWS THAT I INTEND TO JOIN HIS CRAZY ORGANIZATION! I WONDER IF HE'S WISE TO ME?
DEAR FRIENDS ... AND DEAR, DEAD SPIRITS OF THE DARK WORLD ... BEHOLD THIS PILGRIM TO YOUR REVERENT TOMBS! GRACE THIS FELLOW WORSHIPPER FROM OUTER SPACE WITH THE KISS OF ACCEPTANCE FROM YOUR MOULDERING GRAVES!
PRAISE ALLAH!
ALLAH BE PRAISED!
A WAVE OF COLD, CLAMMY AIR SUDDENLY SWEEPS OVER HIM, AND MARVEL BOY BECOMES DIZZY WITH THE SWEET, SICKENING STENCH OF DEATH!
GOOD GRIEF! WHAT A REVOLTING, OVERPOWERING SMELL! I ... I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK! GETTING WEAK ... CAN'T STAND UP ... GOING TO ... OOHHHHHH!
MOMENTS LATER ....
AH .... THE NEW CONVERT IS REVIVING! CONGRATULATIONS, EFFENDI! ... YOUR CONDUCT SIGNIFIES YOUR ACCEPTANCE BY THE GODS OF DEATH! YOU HAVE BEEN INITIATED INTO THE CULT OMAR! WELCOME!
WELCOME YOURSELF! FOR THE LOVE OF PETE, WHAT HIT ME? WHAT WAS THAT GHASTLY, UNEARTHLY ODOR?
AH, MY DEAR SON, THAT WAS THE KISS OF ACCEPTANCE FROM THE LIPS OF ONE OF OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED MEMBERS, WHOSE UNSHROUDED REMAINS LIE IN THE COFFIN WE CALL OUR ALTAR! I PUT OPENED THE LID ... AND YOU SUCCUMBED TO HER KISS! NOW YOU ARE SWORN TO SECRECY! NONE OUTSIDE MUST KNOW OF OUR SACRED, MYSTIC RITES!
B-BUT THE AUTHORITIES ... WON'T YOU HAVE TO REPORT HER DEATH?
OF COURSE, DEAR NOVICE ... IN TIME! BUT THE CIVIL AUTHORITIES ARE SO STUPIDLY STICKY ABOUT THESE SPIRITUAL THINGS ... THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
GREAT GUNS! NEITHER DO I, MISTER ... MISTER DEATH!!!
YOU WILL SAY NOTHING OF THIS TO ANYONE ... UNDERSTAND? THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOU ANYWAY, SINCE YOU ARE NOT OF THIS WORLD, BUT WE OF THE HIGHER PLANES CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE CHANCES WITH THE LOW INTELLIGENCE OF MERE MORTALS! NOW--IF YOU WILL KINDLY STEP INTO MY OFFICE, THERE IS A SLIGHT FORMALITY ....
OH-OH! HERE COMES THE MONEY ANGLE! THIS GUY'S A LOT MORE EARTHY THAN HE'D HAVE ME THINK!
3

SOME FEW MOMENTS PASS ---
AS YOU SAY, MASTER, ANY SUCH WONDERFUL, SPIRITUAL MOVEMENT AS THIS REQUIRES SOME MATERIAL AID, AND I ONLY WISH I HAD SOME READY FUNDS TO DONATE TO THE SACRED CAUSE--- BUT I AM POOR! I HAVE NOTHING BUT AN INSURANCE POLICY MY FATHER TOOK OUT ON ME WHEN I WAS VERY LITTLE!
AN INSURANCE POLICY? AHEM! AH--YES! YES--THAT WILL DO VERY NICELY! LOTS OF OUR DEVOTEES MAKE US THEIR BENEFICIARY, AS AN OFFERING TO ALLAH, OF COURSE! PERHAPS YOU WOULD CARE TO---?
MARVEL BOY QUICKLY ENDORSES A "CHANGE OF BENEFICIARY" ON THE DUMMY POLICY HE OFFERS THE MASTER --- THEN HE MAKES HIS WAY TO AN OUTSIDE TELEPHONE....
HELLO, BOSS? I THINK WE'RE REALLY ONTO SOMETHING--- AND IT'S BIG! I JUST MADE OMAR THE BENEFICIARY OF A FAKE POLICY ON MY LIFE, AND HE FELL FOR IT! THEY'VE GOT A GHOULISH SET-UP HERE, AND ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS SIT AROUND OFFERING PRAYERS TO ALLAH WHILE THEY DREAM UP A CUTE WAY TO KNOCK ME OFF! I'LL SEND YOU A POST CARD FROM HADES! KEEP YOUR COFFIN LID ON!
HE SPENDS THE NIGHT IN THE "SANCTUARY OF THE TEMPLE", AND THE NEXT DAY, AS EVENING FALLS ....
AH, GOOD FRIENDS, AS WE GATHER HERE FOR OUR NIGHTLY SEANCE, I HAVE TRAGIC NEWS TO IMPART! I RECEIVED A MESSAGE IN SPIRIT WRITING, FROM THE GHOST OF A MOHAMMEDAN PROPHET, FORETELLING THE EARLY DEMISE OF ONE OF OUR MOST ARDENT WOMEN CONVERTS! ALTHOUGH IT GRIEVES ME SORELY, I HAVE BEEN COMMANDED BY THE GHOST TO ANNOUNCE HER NAME TO YOU! SHE IS THE KIND, GENEROUS, DEVOUT.....
OH! PRAISE ALLAH --NOT ME!!!
WIDOW JANE DUMONT!
OH-NO! EEEEAAHRRR!
MUCH LATER, THE URANIAN YOUTH RECEIVES AN AGITATED GUEST IN HIS CELL-LIKE ROOM ....
OH, MARVEL BOY, IT WAS SUCH A SHOCK TO ME! I AM NOT OLD-- I DON'T WANT TO DIE YET! BUT IT COSTS MONEY TO LIVE UNDER THE MASTER, AND I HAVE GIVEN EVERYTHING I OWN TO ALLAH! CAN YOU --- CAN YOU HELP ME?
HMMM... I DON'T KNOW, WIDOW DUMONT --- MY POWERS ARE QUITE LIMITED, AND, AFTER ALL, I AM BUT A MERE FLEDGLING IN THE CULT--- HOWEVER, I SHALL CONSULT THE MASTER TOMORROW!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, IN OMAR'S INNER SANCTUM ....
I'M AFRAID, MY SON, THAT THIS IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL! IT IS WRITTEN THAT THE WIDOW DUMONT SHALL DIE! IT IS ALLAH'S VENGEANCE, AND THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO APPEASE HIM, AND PERHAPS AVERT THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY....
YES? AND THAT IS ---?


ALLAH IS A JEALOUS GOD .... AND GREEDY! HE IS DISSATISFIED WITH THIS HUMBLE TEMPLE IN WHICH WE WORSHIP HIM .... HE MAKES EXPENSIVE DEMANDS ON US, AND WHEN WE LACK THE FINANCES TO MEET THEM, HE SOMETIMES CLAIMS A HUMAN SACRIFICE! THE ONLY WAY WE CAN PREVENT THE WIDOW DUMONT'S DEATH IS BY MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE TEMPLE'S TREASURY!
WHY, THAT SOUNDS LIKE BLACKMAIL -- -- OR MURDER!
AH, HOW UNCOUTH, MY SON! NO--IT IS NOT BLACKMAIL! IT IS ALLAH'S WAY OF SECURING WIDOW DUMONT'S CONTRIBUTION ....THROUGH HER LIFE INSURANCE POLICY! AND ALLAH NEVER MURDERS! THE UNFAITHFUL DIE OF THEIR OWN SINS! BUT PERHAPS THE POOR WIDOW WILL NOT DIE .... IF YOU COULD CONTRIBUTE - ER - SOME SORT OF --?
NEVER! THAT IS RANK BLACKMAIL! YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, OMAR!
WHY, YOU - YOU IMPERTINENT YOUNG INFIDEL! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, EH? HA, HA! HO, HO! I HAVE JUST BEEN PLAYING A GAME OF WORDS WITH YOU! IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE TO PREVENT THE DEATH OF THE WIDOW DUMONT! SHE DIED OF A HEART ATTACK DURING THE NIGHT.... AND HER INSURANCE MONEY GOES TO THE TEMPLE! NOW -- GO TO YOUR CELL AND MEDITATE, UNFAITHFUL DOG!
OH - NO! THIS GUY IS A HOMICIDAL MANIAC!
THAT NIGHT, AFTER A FURTIVE EXAMINATION OF THE WIDOW'S BODY IN THE MASTER'S ABSENCE, MARVEL BOY FORMS A PLAN OF ACTION....
THE GUY WAS RIGHT! MRS. DUMONT HAD A WEAK HEART, AND THAT GRUESOME LUNATIC LITERALLY SCARED HER TO DEATH! BUT NO, JURY WOULD EVER CONVICT HIM OF MURDER! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO FORCE HIS HAND -- I KNOW! I'LL MAKE HIM MURDER ME!!!
MR. OMAR, I'M SORRY, BUT I MEDITATED - LIKE YOU SAID - AND I CAN'T QUITE SWALLOW THIS "JEALOUS GOD" STUFF! I'M SCARED, AND I WANT OUT! GIVE ME BACK MY LIFE INSURANCE POLICY, PLEASE!
WHAT??? NEVER! I MEAN .... NO .... WAIT! I - I'VE GOT TO THINK! THIS IS .... THIS IS A TERRIBLE BLOW, MY SON! IT'S - IT'S BLASPHEMY! WAIT - I HAVE IT! WE'LL LET MOHAMMED'S GHOST DECIDE THIS BY SPIRIT WRITING!
INSTANTLY, THE MASTER FLICKS OFF THE LIGHT SWITCH, AND SEIZES PENCIL AND PAPER .... THE ROOM FILLS WITH AN EERIE, GREEN GLOW, AND THE AIR BECOMES DAMP AND CLAMMY ....
QUIET, MY BOY! WE MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE QUIET! AH .... AH .... HERE IT COMES! HERE IT COMES!!!
GREAT GUNS OF MARS! THIS GUY SENDS CHILLS UP AND DOWN MY SPINE!
5


SUDDENLY A WEIRD, COILING, WET MASS OF UNEARTHLY MATTER MATERIALIZES IN MID-AIR, AND GRIPS OMAR'S WRITING HAND! ....
THE ECTOPLASM! MOHAMMED'S GHOST POSSESSES ME! SEE! HE WRITES! A MESSAGE FOR YOU!!!
USH! HOW REPULSIVE!
G-GEE! WH-WHAT DOES IT S-SAY?
THE STRANGE MATTER SLOWLY DISSIPATES, AND ....
AH ....TSK-TSK! JUST AS I THOUGHT! ALLAH SENDS A WARNING! YOU WILL DIE, MY BOY! A SLOW, HORRIBLE DEATH.... UNLESS YOU RELENT -- YAMEEDMTEEV! RELENT, AND EMBRACE THE ONE TRUE FAITH! DO YOU RELENT, INFIDEL? DO YOU???
YES -- YES! I RELENT! I ACCEPT THE TRUE FAITH -- ONLY GIVE ME THAT PAPER! I MUST SEE FOR MYSELF! KEEP MY INSURANCE POLICY -- YOU CAN HAVE THE MONEY -- BUT I MUST HAVE THAT PAPER!
OF COURSE .... OF COURSE, MY DEAR BOY! IT IS, AS YOU CAN SEE, A TRUE MESSAGE FROM ALLAH'S APOSTLE! NOW YOU DO BELIEVE, DON'T YOU?
YES .... I BELIEVE! THIS -- THIS IS UNCANNY! I -- I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! IT'S WONDERFUL! LET ME KEEP IT, MASTER .... I SHALL TREASURE IT ALWAYS!
THEN, AS MARVEL BOY LEAVES THE ROOM ...
MARVEL BOY ....PLEASE! I OVERHEARD YOU TALKING WITH THE .... THE MASTER! MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU IN PRIVATE ..... PLEASE? IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
MRS. SWIFT! YES ... CERTAINLY! COME TO MY ROOM!
SEVERAL HOURS PASS, AND .....
MARVEL BOY! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS INTRUSION? WHAT ARE YOU .... WHY ARE YOU LOOKING LIKE THAT? WHAT'S THE ....?
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND AGAIN, MR. OMAR! I ... I GUESS I GOT CARRIED AWAY BY ALL THAT SO-CALLED "SPIRIT WRITING" HOCUS-POCUS! I DON'T MIND YOUR BEING A FAKER, AND I WON'T SPREAD IT AROUND, BUT I WANT YOUR RELEASE FROM THIS -- THIS DEATH TRAP, AND I WANT MY POLICY BACK!
OH! I SEE .... I SEE, MR. MARVEL BOY! MM-HMM! WE-E-E-ELL-L-LL, PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT, AFTER ALL! COME INTO MY SANCTUM, PLEASE!
AH, YES ... YES, HERE WE ARE! HERE IS YOUR POLICY, YOUNG MAN! I'M SO VERY SORRY THAT IN SPITE OF MY GREAT EFFORTS, YOU FAIL TO SEE THE TRUE LIGHT OF FAITH! BUT THEN ... PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A DWELLER ON TWO PLANETS, AND CANNOT DIVIDE YOUR DEVOTIONS! STILL, MAYBE YOU'LL DRINK A PARTING TOAST WITH ME? "THERE IS NO GOD BUT GOD ..... "
I -- I GUESS IT CAN DO NO HARM .... "MOHAMMED IS THE APOSTLE OF GOD"! IS THAT WHAT ....?
6

MARVEL BOY RAISES THE GLASS TO HIS LIPS, DRINKS, AND....

--YOU WANT ME TO ----(GASP!)

EEEEEAAAACC-C-CH!

....SAY? AH, YES, MY DEAR BOY! FOR THOSE ARE THE *LAST* WORDS YOU WILL EVER UTTER ON *THIS* WORLD!!!

A MOMENT LATER, WHEN THE CONVULSIONS HAVE CEASED.....

ANOTHER ONE, MASTER? OH DEAR! THIS IS A *TERRIBLE* TRAGEDY! WE HAVE HAD SO *MANY* UNBELIEVERS THIS WEEK! REALLY, THE CELLAR IS GETTING QUITE CLUTTERED UP WITH DEAD PARTIES!

I KNOW, SURAF.... PUT THIS ONE IN THE TEMPLE CASKET! WE WILL HOLD THE FUNERAL SERVICE AT MIDNIGHT.... BE SURE ALL MY SUBJECTS ARE PRESENT!

THE QUIET, MOURNFUL HOURS PASS IN THE HOUSE OF DEATH, AND...

THE CLOCK STRIKES TWELVE....THE WITCHING HOUR! DEAR FRIENDS, LET US FACE *MECCA*, AND PRAY TO ALLAH TO BE MERCIFUL UNTO HE WHO WAS KNOWN AS *MARVEL BOY*! ANOTHER EARTHLY INFIDEL HAS DIED TO APPEASE THE WRATH OF ---

MASTER! *MASTER*-- *LOOK!!!* THE COFFIN! IT'S---

EEEY-I-I-Y!!! THE GHOST OF MARVEL BOY! HIS GHOST HAS RISEN!!!

NO! NO! NO! IT'S NOT HIS *GHOST*! IT'S HIS *CADAVER*! HIS ROTTING BODY IS COMING TO LIFE!

IT CAN'T BE! IT *CAN'T* BE! HE'S DEAD! I *KNOW* HE'S DEAD! I KILLED HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS! *DO YOU HEAR ME?* I SAID *I KILLED HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS!* HE DIED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES! HE'S *DEAD*, I TELL YOU! DEAD! *DEAD! DEAD!* OH--MERCIFUL ALLAH! IT'S COMING TOWARD ME! IT'S *AFTER ME!* *HELP! HELP!* *LET ME OUT OF HERE!!!*

JUST A MINUTE, MAESTRO--NOT SO FAST! SINCE WHEN HAS A SPIRITUALIST BECOME SO AFRAID OF GHOSTS? WHAT'S THE MATTER, OMAR? HAVE YOU BECOME SO USED TO DEATH THAT YOU CAN'T STAND TO SEE A LITTLE *LIFE* IN THE PARTY? *HEY-- COME BACK HERE!!!*

THE FEAR-CRAZED SPIRITUALIST THROWS HIMSELF AT THE DOOR, AS—

YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME, YOU.... OOP-PH!!!

HOLD IT, BUDDY, YOU'LL.... UGH-!

HEY! THAT'S THE GUY! GRAB 'IM!

NICE TIMING, J.C.! GLAD TO SEE MRS. SWIFT GOT TO YOU WITH MY MESSAGE ALL RIGHT! "MR. DEATH" HERE ALMOST GOT AWAY WITH A CLEVER--IF GRUESOME--LITTLE RACKET! TROUBLE IS, HE GREW OVER-CONFIDENT --GOT CARRIED AWAY WITH HIMSELF!

HE'LL GET CARRIED AWAY ALL RIGHT NOW, MARVEL BOY! BUT WHAT'S THIS THAT MRS. SWIFT TELLS US ABOUT FRIEND OMAR POISONING YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?

OH, YES ---WELL, YOU SEE, WHEN I GOT HERE I DIDN'T KNOW JUST HOW EVIL THIS "MR DEATH" WAS, BUT WHEN THE WIDOW DUMONT DIED, I BEGAN TO SUSPECT HIM OF OUT-AND-OUT MURDER! SINCE SHE DIED OF NATURAL CAUSES (SHE COULDN'T STAND THE MENTAL STRAIN HE PUT ON HER), I COULD *PROVE* NOTHING ---SO --- I DECIDED TO MAKE HIM KILL *ME* --- IF HE COULD! WHEN I BAITED HIM, HE THREATENED ME --WITH A FAKE *SPIRIT WRITING* "MESSAGE FROM ALLAH"! HE MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE, HOWEVER --- HE NEGLECTED TO DISGUISE HIS HANDWRITING! I'M HOLDING THE "MESSAGE" FOR EVIDENCE! WELL....

---MRS. SWIFT OVERHEARD US --- SHE'S SUSPECTED "MR. DEATH" FOR QUITE A WHILE! SHE TOLD ME ABOUT SOME POISONED WINE SHE'D FOUND WHILE SNOOPING AROUND HIS SANCTUM --- SHE'S A HEROINE FOR THAT! --- AND I IDENTIFIED IT! THEN I TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF IMMUNIZING MYSELF WITH AN ANTIDOTE, AND GOADED HIM INTO MAKING ME DRINK A TOAST WITH HIM! THE REST WAS EASY --- JUST A MATTER OF SLIPPING OUT OF THE COFFIN LONG ENOUGH TO SEND MRS. SWIFT FOR YOU, AND THEN "PLAYING DEAD" TILL YOU GOT HERE!

AND THEN YOU PLAYED "GHOST," AND SCARED HIM INTO SHOUTING OUT AN ADMISSION THAT HE'D KILLED YOU WITH HIS OWN HANDS! WE ALL HEARD THAT! WELL, HE DIDN'T KILL YOU, BUT I GUESS WE CAN HOLD HIM ON AN *ATTEMPTED MURDER* CHARGE, ANYWAY!

I THINK THE CHARGE WILL BE MORE SERIOUS THAN *THAT*, INSPECTOR --- AFTER YOU TAKE A LOOK IN THE BASEMENT!

GOOD GRIEF, WHAT A SORI'D CASE *THIS* WAS!

YES, J.C. ---AND ALL BECAUSE ONE POOR DEMENTED MAN COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE LUST FOR MONEY --- AND KNEW TOO LITTLE ABOUT INSURANCE COMPANY METHODS!

THE END

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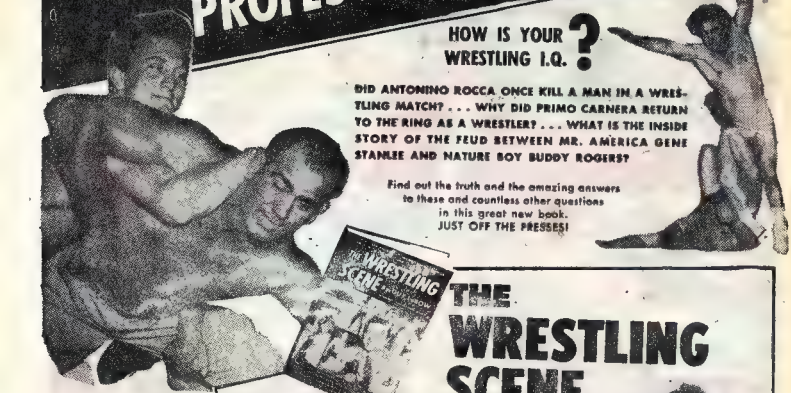

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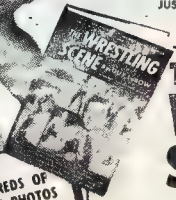

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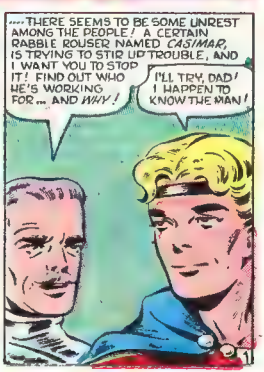
THAT WAS FROM DAD... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG AT HOME!

LIGHT-YEARS PASS WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED, AND SOON.....
YES, SON, SOMETHING IS WRONG! SINCE I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO URANUS, WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, THE URANIANS HAVE KNOWN NOTHING BUT PEACE AND CONTENTMENT... NOW, HOWEVER.....


....THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME UNREST AMONG THE PEOPLE! A CERTAIN RABBLE ROUSER NAMED CASIMAR, IS TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE, AND I WANT YOU TO STOP IT! FIND OUT WHO HE'S WORKING FOR... AND WHY!
I'LL TRY, DAD! I HAPPEN TO KNOW THE MAN!
1

SOMETIME LATER, **MARVEL BOY** APPROACHES A RESTLESS CROWD.....

URANIANS - **LISTEN TO ME!** YOU THINK YOU ARE HAPPY HERE.... YOU ARE SMUGLY CONTENT IN WHAT YOU THINK IS YOUR OWN PRIVATE LITTLE UTOPIA! BUT I WILL TELL YOU YOU'RE **WRONG!** YOU ARE ONLY THE DUPES OF YOUR SO-CALLED RULERS! **ARISE AGAINST THEM!** SHOW THEM YOU WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS OPPRESSION! SHOW THEM.....

THAT'S CASIMAR HIMSELF..... THE UNGRATEFUL DOG! I'LL WAIT TILL HE'S FINISHED.....

....THEN FOLLOW HIM, TO SEE IF HE MAKES A REPORT TO ANYONE....

I SHALL SPEAK TO YOU AGAIN TOMORROW MY FRIENDS!

WITHIN A SHORT TIME .....

HE'S TUNING IN AN INTER-PLANETARY TELESCREEN!

HELLO? HELLO! THIS IS XR-3 REPORTING IN! HELLO....?

WE ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS, BUT THERE MAY BE TROUBLE AHEAD! I SAW DR GRAYSON'S BOY, THE ONE THEY CALL "**MARVEL BOY**," IN THE CROWD TODAY! I'M AFRAID....

BAH! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT COSTUMED, PLAY ACTING, STUPID LITTLE QUIZ KID! HE'S JUST AN OBNOXIOUS BRAT! CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK, XR-3.... THE **MASTER** STANDS BEHIND YOU!

LATER, IN DR GRAYSON'S OFFICE....

YOU SAY HE LOOKED LIKE A **SATANIAN**? THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF! HOW CAN WE STOP THIS, BOB?

WELL, WE CAN START BY USING MY **YOUTH PATROL** TO KNOCK OUT THE "FIFTH COLUMN" ELEMENT, DAD....

YES, THAT'S THE FIRST OBJECTIVE, I SUPPOSE.... WE CAN EXPECT AN INVASION FROM *SATANIA*, IF WE DON'T ELIMINATE THE SUBVERSIVES HERE! BUT REMEMBER OUR NATIONAL DOCTRINE OF "**NO VIOLENCE**," BOB.... WE ARE A PEACEFUL PLANET.... WE WANT TO STAY THAT WAY!

BOB GRAYSON, MARVEL BOY, GRINS AS HE LEAVES HIS WORRIED DAD, AND THE NEXT DAY...

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, LET'S BREAK IT UP! DAD SAYS NO ROUGH STUFF, SO..... YOU ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

ARISE, FELLOW URANIANS! DON'T LET YOUR RULERS.....

SUDDENLY, EACH MEMBER OF THE YOUTH PATROL RAISES HIS RIGHT WRIST, AND THE CROWD IS STRICKEN WITH A BURST OF BLINDING LIGHT!

FULL POWER ON YOUR LIGHT-JEWELS, MEN!

YEEE-AHHH!

I CAN'T SEE!

WHAT....?

THE TERRIFIED CROWD PROMPTLY DISPERSED, MARVEL BOY RACES TO HIS SPACE ROCKET, AND ZOOMS TOWARD THE NEARBY PLANET *SATANIA* ---

I MAY BE A "STUPID LITTLE QUIZ KID," BUT I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THE *SATANIANS* ARE REALLY **AFRAID** OF SOMETHING --- AND THEY MUST WANT TO USE *URANUS* FOR PROTECTION!

MY YOUTH PATROL WILL CONTINUE TO PUT DOWN THE MINOR RIOTS WITH THEIR "PEACEFUL" METHODS, BUT HERE ON *SATANIA*, THE ORDER OF THINGS MAY CALL FOR MORE *DRASTIC* ACTION --- AND SINCE I WAS ORIGINALLY AN *AMERICAN*, NOT A URANIAN, THE "PEACE DOCTRINE" REALLY DOESN'T AFFECT ME! OH-OH! LOOKS LIKE A WELCOMING PARTY FOR ME!

SEIZE HIM!

LOOK OUT! HE MAY BE ARMED!

HE'S A **URANIAN!** TAKE HIM TO THE *MASTER* AT ONCE!

EASY, MEN! I COME ON A PEACEFUL MISSION!

MOMENTS LATER, MARVEL BOY FACES THE SATANIAN RULER---

GREAT MASTER OF SATANIA, I COME TO YOU AS AN UNOFFICIAL EMISSARY OF URANUS, TO ASK YOU YOUR REASONS FOR TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE PEACE OF OUR PEOPLE! --- AND WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU SO AFRAID OF, ANYWAY?

WHY, YOU... YOU IMPUDENT PUPPY! SATANIA FEARS **NOTHING!** IT'S ONLY THAT... THAT WE MUST EXPAND! SATANIA IS THE GREATEST, THE MOST ADVANCED PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE, AND WE INTEND TO SPREAD OUR *CULTURE* EVERYWHERE!

WE ARE DISCIPLES OF THE **SUN!** THE SUN IS THE CENTER OF OUR SUPERIOR CULTURE! WE MUST SPREAD OUR LEARNING EVENLY, AS THE SUN SPREADS ITS LIGHT --- OVER THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE!

THE SUN --- THE *SUN*!! **THAT'S IT!** NOW I KNOW! FOR YEARS YOUR PLANET HAS BEEN MOVING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE SUN! IT'S **RUNNING AWAY FROM THE REST OF THE UNIVERSE!!!** AND YOU'RE IN MORTAL FEAR OF PERISHING IN ITS FLAMES! **YOU WANT TO TRANSFER YOUR WHOLE POPULATION TO URANUS!!!**

SILENCE! YOU IMPERTINENT DOG! YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! **GUARDS! THROW THIS YOUNG SWINE IN IRONS!**

SWINE, AM I? WE'LL SEE IF YOU PUT ME IN IRONS! YOU'RE SPOILING FOR A FIGHT, AND BELIEVE ME YOU'RE GOING TO GET ONE!

QUICKLY SWALLOWING ONE OF DR GRAYSON'S STRENGTH PILLS, MARVEL BOY TEARS INTO HIS WOULD-BE CAPTORS!

THIS IS JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT YOU'LL GET IF YOU TRY ANY INVASION TACTICS AGAINST URANUS!

WAIT!!! WHAT'S GOING ON---?

GLANCING UP, HE SEES A DOOR OPEN --- AND HE LEAPS TOWARDS IT!

PRINCESS SATANA! THE *MASTER'S* DAUGHTER! JUST WHAT I NEED!

OH!

3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT PIMPLES

Acne, Blackheads, and other externally caused Skin Blemishes

WHEN pimply skin is your problem, the first thing to get straight is that you *can* and *should* do something about it. To develop the attractiveness of your face is not mere vanity. It is an "open sesame" towards bringing the real YOU closer to other people and giving your personality the poise and confidence it needs. Your good qualities—intelligence, character, dignity—all go to naught... are completely cancelled out by a skin that "nobody loves to touch." Remember, the YOU that people see first is your face.

SKIN PROBLEMS DEMAND IMMEDIATE CARE

Medical statistics tell us that blemished skin usually occurs from adolescence on through adult life. The problem at the adolescent stage is serious enough to deserve attentive care as a family matter. In adulthood, when life's responsibilities are so much weightier, it is doubly important to exert great effort to eliminate these blemishes. And, there is no better time to get pimples under control than *now*.

DON'T ABUSE SKIN

The first instinctive reaction to pimples and blackheads is to squeeze them out with your fingers.

A bit of experimentation along these lines soon provides convincing proof that this succeeds only in inflaming your skin and spreading the infection. Under no circumstances should pimples and blackheads ever be squeezed.

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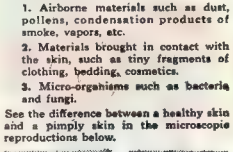
MICROSCOPE SHOWS IMPORTANT BASIS FOR EXTERNALLY CAUSED PIMPLES AND BLACKHEADS

Let's take a look through the microscope to see what's behind those unsightly pimples. The high-powered lenses show your skin coated with a covering which originated from two sources—one, internally and the other, externally.

The internal substances on your skin include dead cells, residue from the sweat glands, and a high quantity of oil excreted by the sebaceous glands. A most important factor in skin disorders occurs when thousands of these tiny sebaceous glands discharge more oil than the skin can use for lubrication. Unless special care is given, the oil forms a heavy film which attracts foreign matter to your skin much as any oil mop picks up dust. These infectious external substances may be classified into three general groups:

1. Airborne materials such as dust, pollens, condensation products of smoke, vapors, etc.
2. Materials brought in contact with the skin, such as tiny fragments of clothing, bedding, cosmetics.
3. Micro-organisms such as bacteria and fungi.

See the difference between a healthy skin and a pimply skin in the microscopic reproductions below.



A. Normal skin — B. Sick, pimply skin

Diagram A shows a normal-size, smoothly functioning sebaceous gland. Diagram B pictures sick, pimply skin. Notice that the sebaceous gland is a swollen mass of trapped oil, waste and infectious bacteria.

TRY THIS SENSIBLE WAY

Two sensible aims to achieve in controlling this skin condition are: to clear the pores of clogging matter, and to inhibit the excessive oiliness of the skin. Toward these ends, Dornol Products' research makes available two formulas. One is to aid in thorough cleansing by highly detergent penetration which simplifies the removal of waste and foreign matter. The other is to discourage oiliness with clinically-proved ingredients and to kill infectious bacteria often associated with externally caused pimples and blackheads.

BLEMISHES COVERED UP

To remove the distressing embarrassment of these skin blemishes, the second Dornol formula exerts a "cover-up" action on your broken out skin while the medication does its work. This, plus its pleasant odor, will spare you the mental distress which is associated with unsightly, malodorous, medicated preparations. Imagine! You can apply this Dornol formula to your skin by day and face the immediate present with greater confidence in your appearance, while secure in the knowledge that medication is acting to remove old blemishes and keep away new ones. What this "cover-up" action alone is worth in peace of mind is beyond calculation. No longer need prying eyes make you wince with humiliation and misery. Now because of this wonderful feature of the Dornol treatment, you can put your best foot forward ... at once!

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED or DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK

We know what the Dornol treatment has done for others, so we want you to try it *at our risk*. A few minutes a day invested in our treatment can yield more gratifying results than you ever dared hope for. This is what we say to you: If you are not delighted in every way by the improved condition and general appearance of your skin in just 10 days, simply return the unused portion and we will refund not only the price you paid — but DOUBLE YOUR MONEY BACK! Can anything be fairer than that? You have everything to gain ... *and we take all the risk!*

How to get the Dornol-Treatment immediately: Just send your name and address to DORNOL PRODUCTS, Inc., Dept. 76, 363 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, N. Y. Be sure to print clearly. By return mail we will ship the Dornol treatment to you in a plain package. When postman delivers the package, pay only $1.98 plus postage. Or, if you wish to save postal fee, send $2 now and we will pay postage. Which ever way you order, the DOUBLE REFUND GUARANTEE still prevails. Don't delay another minute, send for the Dornol Medicated Skin treatment with "cover-up" feature ... *at once! Hurry, as Canadian C.O.D.'s*

SEIZING THE FRIGHTENED PRINCESS BODILY, HE CRASHES THROUGH THE RING OF SURPRISED GUARDS!
YOU'LL DO NICELY FOR A SHORT-TERM LIFE INSURANCE POLICY, SWEETHEART!
DON'T SHOOT! YOU MIGHT HIT SATANA!!!
AT LIGHTNING SPEED, HE ELUDES HIS PURSUERS, AND REACHES THE ROCKET SHIP... BLINDING LIGHT FROM HIS WRIST STUNS THE GUARDS, AND A MOMENT LATER.....
DON'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH, LIKE TRYING TO JUMP OUT A PORTHOLE, PRINCESS... I'M ONLY "BORROWING" YOU FOR A WHILE!
OH, YOU... YOU BEAST!
SOON — SAFE ON URANUS — PRINCESS SATANA IS MADE COMFORTABLE AS A POLITICAL PRISONER .... AND MARVEL BOY BROADCASTS A MESSAGE TO THE MASTER OF SATANIA....
....DO NOT MISCONSTRUE MY ACTIONS.. YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOT BEING HELD AS HOSTAGE .... SHE IS TO BE MERELY AN "INVOLUNTARY" STUDENT OF OUR WAY OF LIFE! SHE WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU SAFELY... WITH A MESSAGE YOU WILL DO WELL TO HEED! IN THE MEANTIME, I WARN YOU NOT TO TRY ANY REPRISAL MEASURES!
THE NEXT FEW DAYS ARE A WHIRLWIND OF EDUCATION FOR THE BEWILDERED SATANA...
SEE HOW HAPPILY OUR PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER, PRINCESS! TAKE NOTE OF THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT ENJOYED BY EACH OF OUR CITIZENS! LEARNING, WORKING, AND PLAYING TO EACH OTHERS BENEFIT, WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THOUGHTS OF AGGRESSION OR WAR! NOR HAVE WE REASON TO COVET OUR NEIGHBORING PLANETS' GOOD FORTUNE! AND....
-BUT-!
OUR ADVANCED EDUCATION HAS TAUGHT US ONE VITAL FACT THAT YOUR SCIENTISTS, IN THEIR FRENZY TO PREPARE FOR WAR, HAVE OVERLOOKED! THIS FACT WILL BE PROVEN TO YOU NOW, AND YOU MUST CONVINCE YOUR FATHER OF ITS AUTHENTICITY WHEN I RETURN YOU TO HIM TOMORROW! COME WITH ME!
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND--?
THE NIGHT IS SPENT IN LABORIOUS STUDY IN DR GRAYSON'S ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY.... THEN, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, MARVEL BOY'S ROCKET SHIP HOVERS OVER THE CAPITAL OF SATANIA, RADIOING A MESSAGE....
I'M COMING IN -- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHOOT ME DOWN, OR SATANA WILL DIE! WE MUST TALK WITH THE MASTER AT ONCE!
MOMENTS LATER....
FATHER.... FATHER! OH, IF YOU HAD ONLY BEEN WITH ME! THE THINGS I HAVE SEEN, FATHER! OH, LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL ON URANUS.... AND IT CAN BE HERE, TOO! OH, FATHER, SATANIA IS NOT MOVING CLOSER TO THE SUN AT ALL! IT'S JUST AN ANCIENT FALLACY, AND I HAVE THE PROOF OF IT RIGHT HERE!
WHAT?!?! IS THIS TRUE?
ABSOLUTELY, SIR! STUDY THESE PAPERS, AND YOU WILL LEARN THAT YOU ARE AS SAFE FROM THE SUN AS THE REST OF US! THEN PERHAPS YOU'LL CONSIDER A PEACEFUL TRADE PACT WITH URANUS, INSTEAD OF WAR!
WHY... WHY, THIS IS WONDERFUL! I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT! MARVEL BOY, YOU FORCE ME TO SUBMIT TO YOUR AMAZING INTELLIGENCE! LET ME SHAKE YOUR HAND!
MUCH LATER, BACK ON URANUS.....
CONGRATULATIONS, BOB! YOUR SUCCESS HAS PROVEN WHAT WONDERS CAN BE DONE WITH STRICTLY PEACEFUL AND HONEST METHODS!
SURE, DAD!
BUT IT SORT OF HELPS IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE STRENGTH TO BACK UP THOSE METHODS, DOESN'T IT, KIDS?
THE END

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FRIGHT!
WAX MUSEUM
ONTO THE MERRIWELL SANITARIUM, SCARCELY TWENTY MILES FROM NEW YORK CITY IN QUIET WESTCHESTER, HAD COME HUNDREDS OF STRANGE PSYCHIATRIC CASES -- BUT ONLY ONE AROUSED MORE THAN MILD EXCITEMENT! THAT WAS THE CASE OF EDWARD EARL!
THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURE, WHICH SHOCKED HIM INTO INSANITY, OCCURRED IN "MURDERERS' ROW" - A ROOM FILLED WITH THE WAXEN EFFIGIES OF CURRENT KILLERS OF THE CRUELEST BENT! A ROOM WHERE THE EVIL WAX KILLERS CAME TO LIFE AND TURNED HIS SKEPTICAL CURIOSITY INTO MADDENING...
FRIGHT!
1936

AT THE MERRIWELL SANITARIUM WHERE I WAS HEAD PSYCHIATRIST, I HAD JUST FINISHED INTERVIEWING CASE #241 WHEN MY ASSISTANT, DR. BETRAND ENTERED, AS THE PATIENT WITH THE HEAVILY BANDAGED THROAT WAS LEAD OUT...
ANY HOPE OF HIS RECOVERY, DR. WALTON?
NONE! IT'S THE WORST CASE OF FRIGHT I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED! I CAN'T MAKE HIM CONSCIOUSLY REFACE THE TERROR OF THE EVENT THAT SHOCKED HIM INTO INSANITY! BUT UNDER HYPNOSIS HE'S TOLD ME HIS INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE...

HE IS EDWARD EARL, A FREE-LANCE REPORTER WHO SPECIALIZED IN FEATURE ARTICLES FOR MAGAZINES! ON APRIL 27, 1948, NEW YORK CITY SEEMED TO HAVE FEW SUBJECTS FOR FEATURE ARTICLES AND EDWARD HAD FEW DOLLARS LEFT IN THE WORLD! AT WASHINGTON SQUARE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE HE PASSED MONSIEUR MERCEDES' WAX MUSEUM AND A HAPPY THOUGHT OCCURRED TO HIM...
1

MONSIEUR MERCEDES, WHAT'S THE MOST FAMOUS ROOM IN YOUR WAXWORKS--MURDERERS' ROW, WHERE YOU HAVE THE DOUBLES OF THE WORST KILLERS OF OUR TIME, RIGHT?
OUI, MONSIEUR, THAT IS ZEE MOST FAMOUS ROOM! BUT NOT ZEE MOST PROFITABLE! AMERICANS DO NOT HAVE ZEE MORBID CURIOSITY OF ZEE FRENCH--THEY PREFER ZEE HISTORICAL FIGURES IN WAX!
I CAN CHANGE THAT! WHAT YOU NEED IS PUBLICITY! AND I NEED A SURE-FIRE SUBJECT FOR AN ARTICLE! LET ME SPEND THE NIGHT ALONE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLDS WORST MURDERERS!
STAY IN MURDERERS' ROW ALL NIGHT? MON DIEU! NEVER!
"THE FRENCHMAN WAS AMAZED AT THE REQUEST! HE QUICKLY DESCRIBED THE HORROR THAT MUST SEIZE THE HEART OF ANYONE WHO STAYED IN THAT ROOM OF ALMOST-LIVING KILLERS! BUT EARL NEEDED THE MONEY THE ARTICLE WAS CERTAIN TO BRING"...
I DON'T SUFFER FROM HALLUCINATIONS! I'VE BEEN A REPORTER TOO LONG TO START SEEING THINGS! JOHN DILLINGER, PRETTY BOY FLOYD AND AL CAPONE DON'T SCARE ME--IN WAX!
VERY WELL, MONSIEUR! ZEE PUBLICITY WILL BE EXCELLENT--IF YOUR NERVES CAN STAND IT!
"THEY STARTED DOWN THE WINDING PASSAGEWAY TO THE DIM LIT BASEMENT THAT HELD THE ALL BUT BREATHING IMAGES OF THE MURDERERS, EACH FROZEN IN THE VERY ACT OF BRUTAL KILLING"...
ALL I WANT IS A COMFORTABLE CHAIR AND A PACK OF "DUCKIES"!
AH, I AM AFRAID YOU MAY NOT SMOKE! ONLY HALF AN HOUR AGO WE HAD A FIRE SCARE RIGHT HERE IN MURDERERS' ROW! ALL THE PEOPLE DASHED OUT--SOME RAGS WERE FOUND BURNING!
"INSIDE ALL WAS STILL! THE LAST VISITOR HAD LEFT! A DEATHLY SILENCE FILLED THE SHADOWY ROOM! THERE STOOD DILLINGER, HIS COLD GREY EYES LOOKING MURDEROUSLY UPON THE REPORTER, CAPONE WAS SMILING EVILLY AND PRETTY BOY FLOYD WAS FINGERING A .45"...
THEY ALMOST SEEM REAL!
AH, MONSIEUR, WE HAVE SPARED NO EFFORT TO DUPLICATE ZEE SMALLEST FEATURE PERFECTLY! EVEN I WHO HAVE CREATED ZEM SOMETIMES IMAGINE THEY ARE THE MURDERERS RETURNED!
"AS EARL'S GAZE WENT FROM ONE KILLER TO THE NEXT, SUDDENLY HE FELT HIS EYES MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSFIXED UPON THE HYPNOTIC STARE OF ONE DEMONIACAL FIEND..."
WHO IS HE? HIS EYES SEEM ALMOST ALIVE!
HE IS OUR MOST RECENT "RESIDENT"--DR. BENEDICT! DURING OFFICE HOURS AN HONORED SURGEON--AFTER HOURS A MANIAC OBSESSED WITH THROATS AND SLITTING THEM WITH A SHARP RAZOR AND A SURGEON'S SPEED!
I REMEMBER HIM NOW! HE WAS TRIED IN QUEENS COUNTY COURT ONLY LAST MONTH!
AND SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR THIRTY THROAT-SLASHINGS! EN ROUTE TO SING SING HE ESCAPED! BUT THE CAR HE STOLE WAS FOUND YESTERDAY, A CHARRED WRECK JUST BELOW TARRYTOWN! HE COULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED--HE EXISTS IN THIS ROOM ONLY IN WAX!
2

"A CHAIR WAS BROUGHT IN FOR EARL AND THE MUSEUM OFFICIALLY CLOSED AT 5:30! ONLY ONE VISITOR REMAINED IN THE WORLD OF WAX..."
THEN YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED--PRIVACY, PENCIL AND PAPER, A CHAIR AND I HOPE STEADY NERVES! I LEAVE YOU NOW TO THE CHARMING COMPANY OF DR. BENEDICT--AU REVOIR!
"SLOWLY THE HOURS TICKED BY! THE SHADOWS THICKENED AND A DROWSY PEACEFULNESS SETTLED UPON THE REPORTER! BUT HIS EYES SUDDENLY DETECTED A TANTALIZING GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK AMONG THE FIGURES IN MURDERERS' ROW ...
DILLINGER, YOU MOVED!... I SAW YOU! NOW YOU'RE STILL! I KNOW YOUR GAME--WHEN I LOOK AT CAPONE YOU MOVE! IF I LOOK AT YOU, PRETTY BOY STARTS TO RAISE HIS GUN AT ME!
"AS HE STOOD LOOKING QUICKLY FROM ONE TO THE OTHER, HE NO LONGER FELT THE CLOSING IN OF THE NARROW CIRCLE OF FURTIVE MOMENTARILY-MOVING MURDERERS..."
HA! HA! RIDICULOUS! THEY'RE ALL WAX! I-I'M LETTING MY IMAGINATION RUN AWAY WITH ME! EVEN BENEDICT'S PIERCING EYES THAT SEEM TO BE BECKONING ME TO DOOM--ARE WAX!
"HE TURNED HIS CHAIR AND TO PROVE TO HIMSELF HIS CONFIDENCE, FACED THE MERCILESS THROAT-SLASHING DOCTOR! SUDDENLY FEAR SEIZED HIS HEART--WHAT WAS THAT... DID THE SMILE ON BENEDICT'S FACE DEEPEN; DID HE FINGER HIS GLITTERING RAZOR?"
PREPOSTEROUS! WORK WILL END THIS ILLUSION! I'LL MAKE SOME NOTES! ..."FEELING OF CLOSENESS... EACH GROTESQUE FIGURE MOVING WHEN I GAZE AWAY, FREEZING WHEN I LOOK AT IT!"... THE PAPER'S TREMBLING! SOMEONE IS BREATHING IN THIS ROOM BESIDES ME!
IT'S YOU, BENEDICT--YOU! I SAW YOU BREATHE! THE PAPER WAVED WHEN YOU EXHALED! CONFESS IT! WAS YOU!
DID YOU SEE ME? THEN THERE'S NO USE POSING ANY LONGER!
Y-YOU'RE ALIVE!
CERTAINLY! DID YOU TRULY THINK THAT I WAS A WAX EFFIGY LIKE THEM? HA! HA! THEY'RE ALL DEAD--I WASN'T IN THAT BURNED CAR! I ESCAPED! I PASSED HERE AND THOUGHT WHAT A PERFECT HIDING PLACE! I CAUSED A FIRE SCARE EARLIER, REPLACED THE WAX FIGURE WITH THE LIVE MODEL AND BY POWER OF AUTOHYPNOSIS HELD MY RIGID POSE TILL YOU DETECTED ME!
NO! NO! I'M IMAGINING THIS!
3

ARE YOU IMAGINING THIS? REALITY AND FANTASY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEBATABLE SUBJECTS AMONG PHILOSOPHERS! WHO IS THE REAL BENEDICT--THE SURE-FINGERED SURGEON OF THE DAY OR THE SWIFT THROAT-CUTTER OF THE NIGHT?
NO! YOU'RE LIKE ALL THE OTHERS--WAX! WAX!
YES, I AM LIKE ALL THE OTHERS A MURDERER! BUT DIFFERENT--I ESCAPED MY SENTENCED DEATH AND LIVE! WHY I EVEN HAVE THE TOOLS OF MY TRADE..
THE RAZOR!
YES, THE RAZOR! WHITE THROATS FASCINATE ME! I'VE HAD TOO FEW THROAT OPERATIONS TO PERFORM DURING OFFICE HOURS--BUT AT NIGHTTIME I CAN PRACTICE THAT DELIGHTFUL FORM OF FATAL SURGERY! AND IT'S NIGHTTIME NOW!
PUT THAT RAZOR DOWN!
I WILL! I WILL! DOWN, DOWN DEEP INTO THE WARM TREMBLING FLESH OF YOUR WHITE THROAT!
LET ME GO! LET GO!
STEADY! QUIET! NOTHING TO FEAR! MY HAND IS TRAINED AND SWIFT! A SINGLE DEEP SLASH...NOTHING TO FEAR...THE VEIN'S SEVERED--ALL IS OVER...
HELP! ...HELP!
"IN THE MORNING THEY FOUND THE REPORTER LYING MOTIONLESS ON THE FLOOR OF MURDERERS' ROW CLUTCHING HIS THROAT--
AND DR. BENEDICT?
OH, BENEDICT? SHATTERED INTO A THOUSAND SMASHED PIECES--WAX IS VERY FRAGILE!
THE END
4

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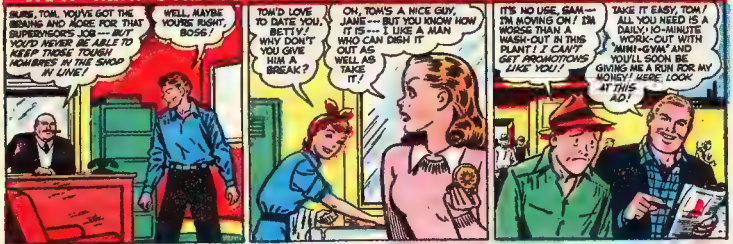
HOW 'MINI-GYM' TURNS PLANT "DRIP" INTO SUCCESS DYNAMO


SURE, TOM, YOU'VE GOT THE BRAINS AND ACRE FOR THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB --- BUT YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KEEP THOSE TOUGH HOMBRES IN THE SHOP IN LINE!
WELL, MAYBE YOURE RIGHT, BOSS!
TOM'D LOVE TO DATE YOU, BETTY! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK?
OH, TOM'S A NICE GUY, JANE --- BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT IS --- I LIKE A MAN WHO CAN DISH IT OUT AS WELL AS TAKE IT!
IT'S NO USE, SAM --- I'M MOVING ON! I'M WORSE THAN A WASH-OUT IN THIS PLANT! I CAN'T GET PROMOTIONS LIKE YOU!
TAKE IT EASY, TOM! ALL YOU NEED IS A DAILY, 10-MINUTE WORK-OUT WITH 'MINI-GYM' AND YOU'LL SOON BE GIVING ME A RUN FOR MY MONEY! HERE, LOOK AT THIS AD!

GOSH, SAM, I'M A NEW MAN! AM I GLAD YOU MADE ME CLIP THAT 'MINI-GYM' COUPON! WATCH ME DO JOE BONOMO'S TRICKY EXERCISE TO AGAIN! IT'S A KILLER-DILLER!
GO TO IT, KID! I ALWAYS KNEW YOU HAD THE STUFF, BUT IT TAKES 'MINI-GYM' TO GIVE A MAN TOP TRAINING!
TWO MONTHS LATER...
NEXT TIME, FELLER, YOU'D BETTER THINK FIRST BEFORE YOU START SHOOTING OFF YOUR MOUTH AT ME!
OH, TOM, YOU'RE WONDERFUL!
HONEST, TOM, I--I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING!
THAT SUPERVISOR'S JOB IS YOURS, TOM! AND I DON'T HAVE TO WISH YOU LUCK! YOU'VE MADE YOURSELF INTO A REAL 'COMER' WHO MAKES HIS OWN LUCK!
THANKS, BOSS! I'LL MAKE GOOD ... AND HOW!

AMBITIOUS MEN OF ALL AGES!

TO GET WHAT YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE GET FIT WITH JOE BONOMO'S MAGIC DE-LUXE 'MINI-GYM'!

Formerly $4.95 — Our special Price Only

3.95 complete

Packs All The Punch Of a Big, Expensive Gym, Including . . .
• Rowing Machine • Wall Exerciser • Tension Pulls • Bicycle

way as the other fellow walk away with the job . . . and girl that should be yours? Life's prize go to the smart man who keeps himself in "prime" physical condition. It's easy with the marvellous, new 'MINI-GYM'. For with this new wonder exerciser, you can . . .

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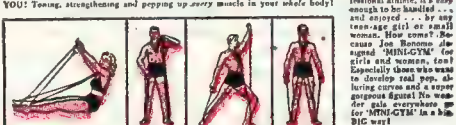

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GEORGE PETERSON liked the house the moment he saw it.

"It's just what I've been looking for," he said to Mr. Simpson, as he got out of the car.

"I'm glad you like it, "Mr. Simpson replied. "If you've been looking for a place where you could be alone and get some work done, you've come to the right man."

When they reached the gate of the white picket fence, Mr. Simpson reached over and unlatched the lock. The small door swung open noiselessly and the two men walked up the path.

"It's a real buy," said Mr. Simpson. "You couldn't get another one like it at the price I'm asking."

"So I'm given to understand," said George.

He stopped a moment to get an all-over view of the house. It stood on a rising slope of ground and the entire north side of the structure fell under the direct shade of a large elm tree. George thought it extremely picturesque, even to the unhinged shutter on the upper-story window that banged noisily against the bright, white clapboards.

"I'll have a carpenter over tomorrow to fix that shutter," said Mr. Simpson in an apologetic tone of voice. "As a matter of fact," he continued, "he was supposed to have been over today, but then, it's hard to get someone to come out here."

The moment he said this, he realized he had made a mistake.

"Don't get me wrong, Mr. Peterson," he added hastily. "There's nothing really wrong with the place. It's just that the people in town are, well . . ." He stopped speaking, unable to find the right word to express his thought and then glanced up at George Peterson with what he hoped was a reassuring look.

"If you're trying to tell me that the people in town think the house is haunted," said George, "I'm already aware of that fact. I can assure you that the thought doesn't bother me in the least."

"I'm certainly pleased to hear you say that," said Mr. Simpson with apparent relief. "After all, sensible people like ourselves can't go around believing in such nonsense."

He placed his hand on George's arm in a confidential manner and lowered his voice as though he were afraid of being overheard.

"Tell you something else," he said. "It's ugly rumors like these that spoil a good property site such as this. Why, I could have sold this place five times over if it weren't for the people in town."

"Well, they haven't scared me off," said George.

He took another long look at the house and he couldn't help noting with satisfaction the beauty of its lines. If anything, it gave a welcoming and inviting appearance. Mr. Simpson was quite right, he thought. The morbid superstitions of the townspeople were responsible for the protracted vacancy, but then, it was working out in his favor. Wasn't he to gain, he questioned himself. Where else could he get so fine a house at such a ridiculously low price?

"How long has the place been vacant?" asked George, as they walked up the broad flight of wooden stairs.

"Three years this February," replied Mr. Simpson. "That's when they found the last owner, old Mr. Farnsworth, dead in the living room. Now I ask you, what's so terribly wrong in an old man dying? It happens every day, doesn't it?"

"I suppose so," said George. "Yet to hear the folks in town tell it, they'd have you believe it was something else again."

Mr. Simpson waved his hand in a chiding manner.

"Nonsense," he snapped. "I'll admit that Farnsworth was a strange old bird and that he kept pretty much to himself, but that's all there was to it. The doctor listed the death as heart failure, but those fools in town insist in saying he was strangled."

As he fumbled for the key, he looked up at George Peterson.

"It stands to reason if a man's

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Eyes _____
Clothing _____

been strangled there'd be some kind of marks on his throat. Well, there weren't any, because I saw the body myself."

With this remark he turned the key in the lock and swung open the door.

Inside it was bright and sunny. Broad shafts of luminous sunlight streaming through the foyer window cast golden highlights across the walls and floorboards.

"It's beautiful!" exclaimed George. "Simply beautiful!"

"I knew you'd like it," said Mr. Simpson. "Wait till you see the rest of the place," he added. "You'll be wild about it."

They crossed the foyer to the stairway that led to the second story.

"We can start with the second floor and work our way down," said Mr. Simpson. "How's that with you?"

"Just fine," said George. He was terribly excited now. Somehow everything was working out just perfectly. He had finally, after all these months, found just the place he was looking for.

They went through the upper floor rather quickly. Everything was, as Mr. Simpson had said, in apple-pie order.

As they walked down the stairs Mr. Simpson glanced at his watch and then gave a start.

"Great guns!" he exclaimed. "I've forgotten all about my other appointment."

He turned to George.

"Do you mind if I run along and pick you up in, say, an hour?"

"Not at all," said George. "I'll just wander about the place and enjoy myself."

He watched Mr. Simpson walk to the door and smile back at him. A moment later the door shut and he was alone in the house. . .

He was about to walk out to the kitchen when he noticed that the foyer, which had been flooded with sunlight, was now quite dark. As he stood there puzzling over the sudden change, he was aware of it becoming even darker with each passing moment. A tingling sensation now ran along his spine and he felt a sudden desire to leave. It came without warning—a rising panic which set his legs in motion.

With a quick step he walked toward the door and then, just as suddenly, he stopped.

He was standing before the threshold of the living room. Here the darkness was even more compelling. Perhaps it was the shade from the large elm that threw a disturbing pattern of moving shadows across the room — a pattern that seemed to weave and twist with hypnotic rhythms. Slowly he felt himself compelled to enter the room. It drew him in, beckoned to him, destroyed his will to resist.

The shadows weaved about him as he entered, and from the corners of the room dark moving shapes that lacked definite form or substance began to press in on him from all sides.

Slowly, with a dancing, whirling motion, the blotted forms spun about him, and all he could hear was his own painful breathing. It was as though he were seized by an overwhelming force that pressed down upon him with suffocating weight, making all movement impossible.

Faster and faster the masses of shadow continued their strange pattern of movement. His breathing became more difficult and then the realization of what Simpson had said flashed through his thoughts. "There were no marks on the throat." Of course not! The evil that filled the room would leave no marks. It just pressed itself upon its victim, drawing out his life, smothering it beneath black folds of formless horror.

Slowly he dropped to his knees. With a final rush the forms closed in and then, suddenly, the sound of a tolling church bell came to him through the murky darkness. As the heavy peals resounded through the room, the shapes hesitated —slowly, as if forced back by an invisible and superior force, they receded toward the corners whence they had come. Gradually he felt a lessening of the strange tension which had rooted him to the spot. The room became filled with sunlight again. With a sudden movement he dashed through the doorway, and a moment later the house was behind him and he was running in wild flight down the road . . .

Three days later, when he received a letter from Mr. Simpson asking for an explanation as to his sudden disappearance, he simply ignored it. There are certain things that can't be explained, and George Peterson knew that this was one of them.

THE END

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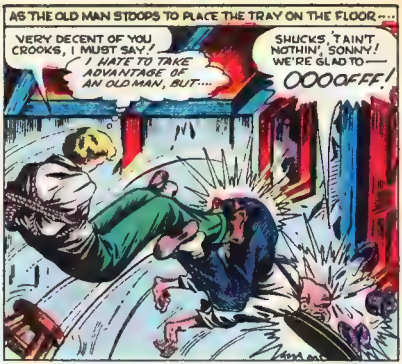
I THOUGHT I'D BETTER SEE YOU BEFORE THE F.B.I. -- OR THE COMMIES THEMSELVES -- GOT TO YOU, MISS DAVIS.... LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN FOR A SPOT OF TROUBLE!

TROUBLE? *TROUBLE'S MY MIDDLE NAME*, MARVEL BOY! EVER SINCE I GOT MIXED UP WITH *DYNAMITE CARR*'S GAMBLING SYNDICATE! I NEARLY GOT THROWN OUT OF THE SOCIAL REGISTER FOR THAT LITTLE CAPER!

YOU'RE *ONE* PERSON I CAN TRUST, MARVEL BOY, SO I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT CARR WAS ACTUALLY A FRONT FOR A COMMUNIST CELL OPERATING HERE IN THE EAST, UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.... AND BY THAT TIME I HAD CERTAIN DEADLY INFORMATION IN MY HANDS THAT MAKES ME A DANGEROUS THREAT TO THE COMMIES' PLANS....

SILENTLY, THE DOOR OPENS BEHIND THE COUPLE ····
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THAT INFORMATION IS, BUT ···· OH!
OH, NO YOU WON'T, SISTER! YOU AIN'T TALKIN' TO NOBODY! DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE, BIG BOY— THE DOLL'S COMIN' WIT' US!
OH, SHE IS, IS SHE? THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, LUGS! YOU'VE GOT ME TO RECKON WITH FIRST!
LOOK OUT! THE PUNK THINKS HE'S A HERO!
YOU BEEN READIN' TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS, CHUM! THIS AIN'T KID STUFF ···· WE'RE PLAYIN' FER KEEPS!
UGH!
WHAP!
MARVEL BOY SPINS DOWN THROUGH A WHIRLPOOL OF DAZZLING STARS— THEN STRUGGLES BACK THROUGH THE DARKNESS TO DISCOVER ····
HAVE A NICE SLEEP, SONNY? WE WENT T'ROUGH YER POCKETS WHILE YOU WAS OUT, AN' THE BOSS DON'T LIKE INSURANCE INVESTIGATORS STICKIN' THEIR NOSES IN HIS BIZNISS! I T'INK HE BETTER LOOK YOU OVER ···· C'MON — GIT UP ON YER PINS!
OH-OH! THIS MAY BE JUST WHAT I WANT!
12
HOP IN TH' CAR, BUDDY ···· WE'RE GOIN' FER A LITTLE RIDE! AN' DON'T TRY NO FUNNY STUFF!
DON'T WORRY — I'VE GOT AN AVERSION TO LEAD POISONING!
MARVEL BOY MEMORIZES THE ENTIRE ROUTE AS THE CAR RACES THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT, AND SOON ····
OKAY, HERO! GET OUT — BUT SLOW! I GOT AN ITCHY FINGER!
HE TAKES IN EVERY DETAIL AS THEY ENTER THE DILAPIDATED HOUSE, AND HIS SHARP EYES REST BRIEFLY ON A TINY ARTICLE ON THE DUST-COVERED FLOOR ····
YOU GONNA BE TIED UP TILL THE BOSS GITS HERE, CHUM — JUST IN CASE YOU GOT ANY CRAZY IDEAS!
HMMM! I WAS RIGHT!
2

AN HOUR LATER, IN THE ROOM WHERE MARVEL BOY IS HELD PRISONER ····
'LLLO! YOU OKAY, KID? TH' BOSS WON'T BE HERE FER A WHILE ··· I T'OUGHT Y' MIGHT LIKE SOME FOOD····
HELLO! WELL, THIS IS RIGHT NICE OF YOU, POP!


AS THE OLD MAN STOOPS TO PLACE THE TRAY ON THE FLOOR···
VERY DECENT OF YOU CROOKS, I MUST SAY! I HATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AN OLD MAN, BUT····
SHUCKS, 'TAIN'T NOTHIN', SONNY! WE'RE GLAD TO——
OOOOFFF!

A MOMENT LATER, THE OLD MAN'S POCKET-KNIFE IN HIS HAND····
THAT WAS ALMOST TOO EASY! ONE OF THESE KEYS WILL LET ME OUT OF THIS ROOM, AND ONE OF THE OTHERS SHOULD····

···RELEASE THE GIRL! THE CROOKS MUST BE SLEEPING DOWNSTAIRS··· IT'S QUIET UP HERE, BUT··· IF I'M NOT GREATLY MISTAKEN, I CAN HEAR OUR HEROINE CRYING BEHIND THIS DOOR!
SOB!=

OH! M-MARVEL BOY! HOW DID YOU-SOB!=G-GET HERE?
JUST LIKE IN THE "WHODUNITS," SHERRY! ONLY EASIER--THEY LET A DECREPIT OLD MAN BRING ME FOOD! BUT QUICKLY, NOW, TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

WELL, THE SENATE COMMITTEE WANTS ME TO PUT THE FINGER ON CERTAIN PEOPLE! KNOW WHOM THEY SUSPECT ARE COMMUNIST AGENTS···· AND THOSE SAME "CERTAIN PEOPLE" WANT TO KEEP ME FROM TALKING! THEY'RE AFRAID I'LL SING ABOUT THEIR LATEST LITTLE PLOT···· AND, BELIEVE ME, I WILL — IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE! THEY'VE GOT AGENTS EVERY-WHERE ···· EVEN IN THE F.B.I. ITSELF!
EVEN IN THE F.B.I. ??? OH, NO, SHERRY! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

AH! I DON'T KID YOURSELF, DARLING! NOT ONLY DO THEY HAVE AGENTS THERE, BUT THOSE SAME AGENTS HAVE PLANTED TIME-BOMBS IN ALL THE BUREAU'S RECORD DEPARTMENTS! THEY'RE GOING TO BLAST THE ENTIRE BUREAU TO KINGDOM COME!
NO! GOOD LORD! THAT'S THE MOST FANTASTIC PLOT YET! LISTEN, SHERRY--I'VE GOT TO LEAVE YOU HERE NOW, BUT I THINK YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT... I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU AS SOON AS I CAN!
3

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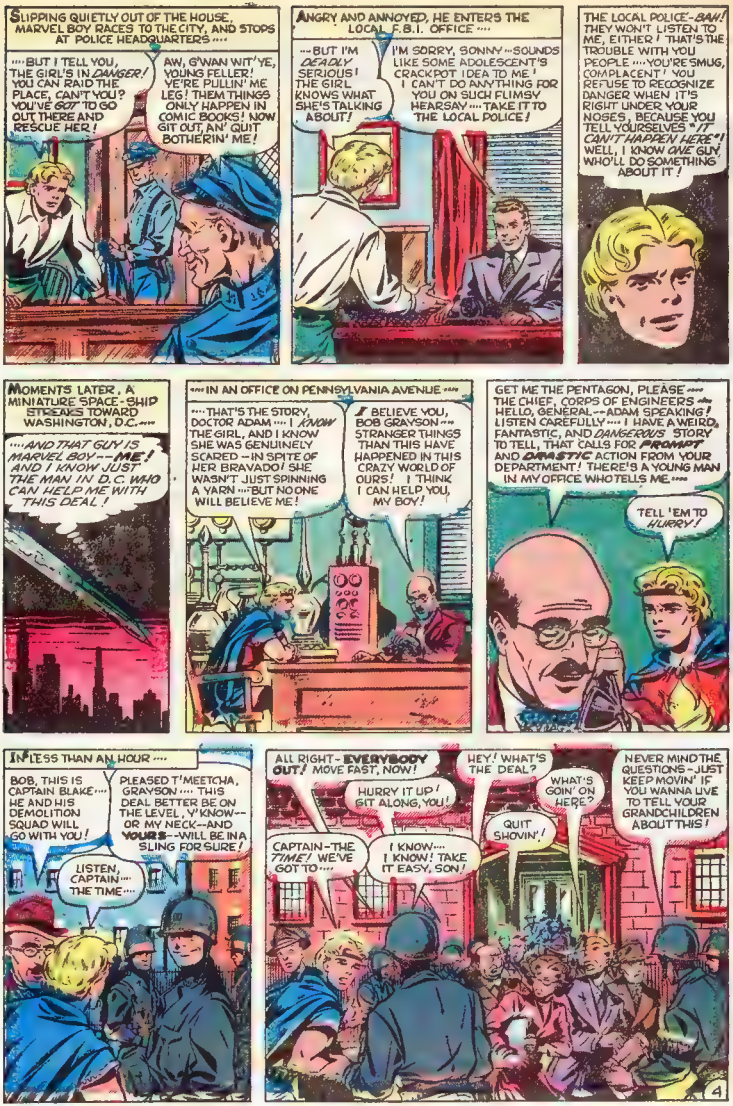
SLIPPING QUIETLY OUT OF THE HOUSE, MARVEL BOY RACES TO THE CITY, AND STOPS AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS....
....BUT I TELL YOU, THE GIRL'S IN DANGER! YOU CAN RAID THE PLACE, CAN'T YOU? YOU'VE GOT TO GO OUT THERE AND RESCUE HER!
AW, G'WAN WIT' YE, YOUNG FELLER! YE'RE PULLIN' ME LEG! THEM THINGS ONLY HAPPEN IN COMIC BOOKS! NOW GIT OUT, AN' QUIT BOTHERIN' ME!
ANGRY AND ANNOYED, HE ENTERS THE LOCAL F.B.I. OFFICE....
...BUT I'M DEADLY SERIOUS! THE GIRL KNOWS WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT!
I'M SORRY, SONNY...SOUNDS LIKE SOME ADOLESCENT'S CRACKPOT IDEA TO ME! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU ON SUCH FLIMSY HEARSAY.... TAKE IT TO THE LOCAL POLICE!
THE LOCAL POLICE--BAH! THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME, EITHER! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU PEOPLE....YOU'RE SMUG, COMPLACENT! YOU REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE DANGER WHEN IT'S RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSES, BECAUSE YOU TELL YOURSELVES "IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE"! WELL, I KNOW ONE GUY WHO'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
MOMENTS LATER, A MINIATURE SPACE-SHIP STREAKS TOWARD WASHINGTON, D.C....
....AND THAT GUY IS MARVEL BOY--ME! AND I KNOW JUST THE MAN IN D.C. WHO CAN HELP ME WITH THIS DEAL!
....IN AN OFFICE ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE....
....THAT'S THE STORY, DOCTOR ADAM.... I KNOW THE GIRL, AND I KNOW SHE WAS GENUINELY SCARED--IN SPITE OF HER BRAVADO! SHE WASN'T JUST SPINNING A YARN....BUT NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME!
I BELIEVE YOU, BOB GRAYSON... STRANGER THINGS THAN THIS HAVE HAPPENED IN THIS CRAZY WORLD OF OURS! I THINK I CAN HELP YOU, MY BOY!
GET ME THE PENTAGON, PLEASE.... THE CHIEF, CORPS OF ENGINEERS... HELLO, GENERAL--ADAM SPEAKING! LISTEN CAREFULLY.... I HAVE A WEIRD, FANTASTIC, AND DANGEROUS STORY TO TELL, THAT CALLS FOR PROMPT AND DRASTIC ACTION FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT! THERE'S A YOUNG MAN IN MY OFFICE WHO TELLS ME....
TELL 'EM TO HURRY!
IN LESS THAN AN HOUR....
BOB, THIS IS CAPTAIN BLAKE.... HE AND HIS DEMOLITION SQUAD WILL GO WITH YOU!
PLEASED T'MEETCHA, GRAYSON.... THIS DEAL BETTER BE ON THE LEVEL, Y'KNOW--OR MY NECK--AND YOURS--WILL BE IN A SLING FOR SURE!
LISTEN, CAPTAIN... THE TIME....
ALL RIGHT--EVERYBODY OUT! MOVE FAST, NOW!
HEY! WHAT'S THE DEAL?
HURRY IT UP! GIT ALONG, YOU!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?
NEVER MIND THE QUESTIONS--JUST KEEP MOVIN' IF YOU WANNA LIVE TO TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT THIS!
QUIT SHOVIN'!
CAPTAIN--THE TIME! WE'VE GOT TO....
I KNOW... I KNOW! TAKE IT EASY, SON!
4

MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE ENTIRE JUSTICE BUILDING, AND SURROUNDING AREA, IS CLEARED....
OKAY, MEN — INSIDE! REMEMBER--TAKE IT EASY.... DON'T GET EXCITED! YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK!
B-BUT CAPTAIN! THEY'VE GOT TO HURRY! NO ONE KNOWS WHEN THOSE TIME-BOMBS ARE SET TO GO OFF!
HA! "TIME-BOMBS" HE SAYS!
THE FOOLS! THEY STILL DON'T BELIEVE ME! THEY'LL WASTE PRECIOUS HOURS SEARCHING HAPHAZARDLY THROUGH EACH INDIVIDUAL FILING CASE OF RECORDS, LOOKING FOR THE BOMBS.... BUT EVEN THE COMMIES WOULDN'T BE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO PLANT THEM THERE! ME, I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK THROUGH THE BASEMENT!
BASEMENT
HELLO — WHAT'S ME DOING HERE?
HEY, YOU! DON'T YOU KNOW EVERYONE'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF THE BUILDING? WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
NEVER MIND WHAT I'M DOING, PUNK! JUST STAND BACK! KEEP CLEAR.... YOU HEAR ME? I SAID KEEP CLEAR!!! DON'T — DON'T C-COME ANY CLOSER, OR I'LL— STOP!!! I'LL ...
MARVEL BOY THROWS HIMSELF TO THE FLOOR AS THE SHOT RINGS OUT—
DARN THE LUCK! HE GOT AWAY, BUT HE WON'T GET FAR! AND NOW I'VE GOT THE ANSWER TO THIS THING — IF THERE'S JUST TIME ENOUGH! EVERY SECOND COUNTS NOW!
THE FURNACE ROOM! I WAS RIGHT AGAIN — THERE ARE THE WIRES! OH, GIVE ME STRENGTH — AND SPEED! THAT RAT MUST HAVE SET THE TIME MECHANISM UP WHEN HE HEARD US COMING!
FRANTICALLY HE TEARS INTO THE CENTRAL FIRING DEVICE CONCEALED IN THE COLD FURNACE!
GREAT HEAVENS! I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNTANGLE THIS MAZE OF WIRES IN TIME! HE MUST HAVE A HUNDRED DIFFERENT CHARGES PLANTED THROUGHOUT THE BUILDING — BUT I CAN DISMANTLE THE MAIN ONE HERE IN THE BASEMENT!
A MOMENT LATER HE RINGS THE GENERAL FIRE ALARM — A PRE-ARRANGED SIGNAL — AND RACES UP TO THE MAIN FLOOR....
CAPTAIN BLAKE! CAPTAIN BLAKE! GET YOUR MEN OUT OF HERE AT ONCE! HURRY! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!!!
HOUSE PHONE
5

WHAT'S UP? WHAT DID YOU FIND, KID?
PLENTY, CAPTAIN! THE WHOLE BUILDING'S A HORNET'S NEST OF DYNAMITE CHARGES! GET EVERYONE AWAY FROM HERE!
SECONDS LATER....
BAM!
BOOM!
WHAM!
WHAP!
WHOOM!
HEY! THAT MAN.... LET ME AT HIM!
MARVEL BOY DIVES HEADLONG INTO THE CROWD OF STUNNED SPECTATORS....
COME HERE, YOU! I'VE GOT A PERSONAL SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU, BUDDY!
WELL, WELL, WELL! IF IT ISN'T MY OLD FRIEND, THE JOKER WHO TOOK ME FOR A LITTLE RIDE AT THE POINT OF A GUN! YOU'D BETTER START TALKING, BUD— BUT FAST!
M-MARVEL B-BOY! I.... I D-DIDN'T KNOW! I--I'LL T-TALK, I'LL TALK!
I P-PLANTED THE CHARGES IN ALL THE OFFICE RADIATORS.... AND THE BIG ONE IN THE MAIN FURNACE! BUT IT WASN'T MY IDEA, HONEST! IT WAS THE BOSS'S--DYNAMITE CARR'S! I....I'LL PUT THE F-FINGER ON HIM IF YOU W-WANT ME TO! I.... I KNOW THE DAME SQUEALED ON US, B-BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS IN THE SAME HOUSE W-WIT' YOU?
ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR FATHEAD....
I SPOTTED A MONOGRAMMED HANDKERCHIEF SHE DROPPED JUST INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR! NOW--TURN THIS LUG OVER TO THE POLICE, CAPTAIN, AND LET'S TAKE A QUICK TRIP TO THE GANG'S HIDEOUT! IF WE HURRY, WE MAY BE IN TIME TO SAVE THE GIRL YET!
OKAY, PAL.... LET'S GO!
AN HOUR LATER THE COUNTRYSIDE ROCKS WITH THE STACCATO CHATTER OF SMALL-ARMS FIRE, AS A MINIATURE BATTLE RAGES BETWEEN CAPTAIN BLAKE'S MEN AND THE COMMUNIST GANG BARRICADED IN THE HOUSE!
MORE TEAR GAS, MEN!
HOLD IT, CAP'N! THEY'RE READY TO GIVE UP! THERE'S A WHITE FLAG!
THE ACRID SMOKE DIES AWAY, AND....
SHERRY! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
I.... I'LL LIVE, I GUESS! THEY WERE GOING TO K-KILL ME, BUT CARR GOT SCARED WHEN I TOLD HIM YOU WERE MARVEL BOY, AND THAT YOU KNEW ABOUT HIS PLOT! HOW DID YOU MAKE OUT?
WE WEREN'T QUITE IN TIME, THANKS TO THE PIG-HEADED COMPLACENCY OF CERTAIN "LOYAL AMERICANS"..... BUT NO ONE WAS HURT, AND CAPTAIN BLAKE HAD SENSE ENOUGH TO REMOVE ALL THE F.B.I. RECORDS OF COMMUNIST AGENTS AND ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE EXPLOSION! IT'S ALL OVER NOW BUT THE SHOUTING — AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE!

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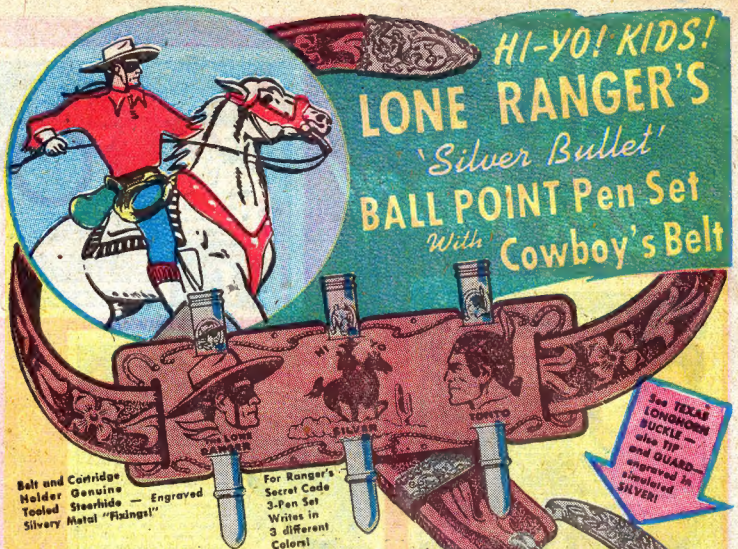
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GREEN for "HI-YO! Let's GO!"

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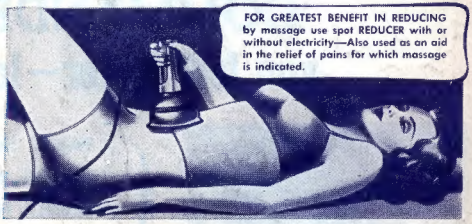

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